



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

June 1, 2005

News Release

LOMITA MAN CHARGED WITH TRAVELING TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL ACTIVITY WITH A MINOR

Child predator pleads not guilty in federal court in Florida

LOS ANGELES — A Lomita man pleaded not guilty in federal court in Florida yesterday to charges he traveled to that state to engage in sexual activity with a juvenile and used the Internet to entice a minor into engaging in sexual activity.

Adam Statland, 31, was arraigned in Ft. Pierce, Florida Monday after being indicted by a grand jury there earlier this month. He was arrested at his Lomita home May 6 after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents executed a search warrant at the home and seized several computers. Statland made his initial court appearance in Los Angeles and remained in custody until his removal to Florida.

Statland is charged with two counts of travel with intent to engage in a sexual act with a juvenile, and one count of using a facility of interstate commerce — namely, the America On-Line Internet service — to attempt to persuade, induce, or entice a minor to engage in a sexual activity.

The investigation began when the mother of a 16-year-old Florida girl contacted law enforcement after discovering her daughter had met an adult on the Internet who lived in California. According to documents filed in the case, the man, subsequently identified as Statland, had flown to Florida and had a sexual encounter with the juvenile. The case is being investigated by ICE and the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

If convicted on the travel counts, Statland faces a maximum penalty of 30 years in prison. The use of the Internet count carries a maximum of 30 years in prison.

Statland's arrest is part of Operation Predator, a comprehensive ICE initiative aimed at those who prey on children, including human traffickers, international sex tourists, Internet pornographers, and foreign national predators whose crimes make them deportable. More than 5,700 child sex offenders have been arrested by ICE nationwide as part of the initiative.

Additional information about Operation Predator is available on the Web at www.ice.gov. ICE encourages the reporting of suspected child predators and any suspicious activity through its toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. This hotline is staffed around the clock by investigators. Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.